



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DRUG AND WEAPON OFFENSES

Re: United States v. Michael HUNT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, and Clifford Ellston, Resident Agent in Charge of the N.H. Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), announced that Michael HUNT, 37, of Manchester, N.H. was sentenced today on federal weapon and drug distribution charges.

On April 15, 2005, HUNT entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute cocaine and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm on December 9, 2004, in Manchester, N.H.

At today's sentencing, Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 63 months (5 years, 3 months) imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which HUNT's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On December 9, 2004, after a traffic stop, Hunt's automobile and Manchester apartment were searched, resulting in the seizure of approximately half of a kilogram of cocaine and a stolen, loaded .25 caliber Taurus handgun. Hunt was convicted of burglary in 1988, and as a convicted felon was prohibited from possessing firearms.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal drug and firearms laws as mandated by DOJ's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons and drug traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against HUNT resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. State Police with assistance from the Manchester Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDETF”).

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